

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 AMMAN 00837 130901Z
ACTION NODS-00

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NODIS CHEROKEE

EO 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PFOR, JO, IS
SUBJECT: NEXT STEPS IN JORDAN-ISRAELI ECONOMIC DIALOGUE AND
SECRETARY'S VISIT

REF: AMMAN 0690

1. WHEN I VISITED WITH CROWN PRINCE HASSAN ON FEBRUARY 10,
HE RAISED WITH ME THE QUESTION OF CONTINUING TECHNICAL
TALKS WITH THE OTHER SIDE ON POTASH AND MAQARIN DAM. I
WILL BRIEF HIM SHORTLY ON OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH THE
ISRAELIS ON WATER RIGHTS AND PROVIDE HIM WITH THE ISRAELI
FIVE QUESTIONS.

2. HE IS STILL INTERESTED IN THE POSSIBILITY OF SOME
US PRESENCE (MYSELF OR FROM AID) AT HIS TALKS. I AM
QUITE SURE HE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE US THERE FOR PROTECTIVE
COLORATION, TO SECURE OUR HELP IN EVALUATING THE
TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF THE PROJECTS (HE CANNOT STAFF THE
QUESTION ADEQUATELY), AND POSSIBLY ALSO TO HELP WITH THE
FUTURE POLITICAL ASPECTS OF THE TALKS AS THEY PROCEED. THE
ADVANTAGES TO US ARE LESS CLEAR CUT. WE WOULD BE A FIRST-HAND
OBSERVER OF THE PROCESS AND LESS DEPENDENT UPON
JORDANIAN AND WHAT I ASSUME ARE ALSO AVAILABLE (BUT WHICH WE
HAVE NEVER SEEN), ISRAELI DEBRIEFS. THE DISADVANTAGES

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ARE EVEN MORE CLEAR CUT: THE ISRAELIS HAVE ALWAYS
WANTED FACE-TO-FACE TALKS. WOULD THEY REALLY WANT
US IN THE MIDDLE? WE MIGHT WELL HAVE TO TAKE AN
ABSOLUTELY NEUTRAL STAND WHICH NEITHER THE
ISRAELIS OR JORDANIANS WOULD BE HAPPY WITH. OUR
TECHNICAL EVALUATIONS AND SUPPORT COULD WIND US INTO
PROJECTS WE DO NOT LIKE. OUR POLITICAL ROLE COULD BE

MORE BURDENSOME THAN WE MIGHT WISH.

3. ON THE OTHER HAND, IF THE ISRAELIS WANT US IN THAT MIGHT CHANGE THE PICTURE. WOULD IT BE POSSIBLE TO FEEL THEM OUT? I COULD OF COURSE ALWAYS SAY HERE TO HASSAN THAT BEFORE I SUGGEST HIS IDEA TO WASHINGTON IT MIGHT BE BEST IF HE COULD COMMUNICATE WITH THE ISRAELIS AND DETERMINE THEIR INTEREST. THIS WOULD HELP TO SOUND OUT THAT POINT WITHOUT GIVING THE ISRAELIS THE IDEA WE ARE WORKING SO CLOSELY WITH HASSAN. IT WOULD ALSO STILL LEAVE ME SOME CHOICE ABOUT PRESENTING IT TO THE SECRETARY, UNLESS HASSAN OF COURSE WISHES TO DO SO WHILE THE SECRETARY IS HERE.

4. HASSAN ALSO GAVE ME SEVERAL SHORT PAPERS. ONE IS A COMMENT ON AN ISRAELI RIFT VALLEY SCHEME PAPER WRITTEN BY AN S. GUR. THE OTHER IS A LIST OF SUGGESTED AREAS OF COOPERATION. HE ASKED THAT HAL SAUNDERS SEE THESE BEFORE HIS MEETING WITH HASSAN REQUESTED SEPTEL. THE LATTER PAPER BY HASSAN I AM SENDING AS THE NEXT PARAGRAPH OF THIS MESSAGE WITH THE EXPECTATION IT CAN BE PASSED TO SAUNDERS IN INR. THE FORMER MUST BE READ ALONGSIDE THE ISRAELI STUDY, A COPY OF WHICH WE HAVE HERE. I WILL TRY TO DISCUSS THEM WITH HAL SAUNDERS WHEN HE GETS TO AMMAN.

5. PAPER -- "AREAS OF POTENTIAL CO-OPERATION"
(A) AGRICULTURE -- TRANSFER OF IMPROVED FARMING METHODS AND TECHNOLOGY THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN EXTEN-
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SION COURSES ALREADY BEING HELD ON WEST BANK.

-- DRIP IRRIGATION PILOT FARM IN WADI ARABA.

(B) WATER -- DEVELOPMENT OF GROUNDWATER RESOURCES IN THE RIFT.

-- EXCHANGE OF AVAILABLE DATA ON BOTH SIDES.

-- DESALINATION AT AQABA.

(C) MINERALS -- POTASH

-- COPPER

-- OIL

(D) ELECTRICITY

-- CO-ORDINATION OF LONG TERM PLANS THROUGH
EXCHANGE OF DATA ON LONG TERM PROJECTIONS.

(E) TRANSPORTATION -- UTILIZATION OF MEDITERRANEAN
PORTS FOR IMPORTS AND EXPORTS TO THE EAST BANK AND
FOR TRANSIT TRAFFIC.

(F) HOUSING -- LOW COST HOUSING.
PICKERING

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NNN

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